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On May 19, 1938 the first flight carrying US mail from Canandaigua took off for Rochester with three pouches of mail. On May 19, 2018, 80 years later to the day, RPA joined with two local civic organizations to celebrate the event at ROPEX. Our annual National Stamp Show was held at the Canandaigua Civic Center, less than a mile for the airport where the flight originated.

The weekend started early with a welcoming event Thursday evening with the [Granger Homestead Society](#) at the home of the Gideon Granger, the longest serving Postmaster General of the United States (1801-1813). ROPEX opened Friday morning with enthusiastic collectors and our loyal set of dealers. The exhibit area boasted 110 competitive frames and six Court of Honor frames. For a full listing of the dealers, exhibits and awards that were bestowed upon the exhibitors visit the [ROPEX 2018 webpage](#) and [Palmares](#), respectively.



The RPA thanks the [Ontario County Historical Society](#) for sharing its special exhibit of philatelic items from the May 18, 1938 historic air mail flight from Canandaigua to Rochester.

2018 is not an election year for most of RPA's officers who serve two year terms. However, an election for one of the association's Board of Governor positions was held in June. The RPA officers for the 2018-2019 year are:

RPA Officers (July 2017-June 2019)

President- Larry Rausch
Vice President- John Flannery III
Treasurer- Dave Robinson
Recording Secretary- John Kellas III

Board of Governors

Paul Brach (to June 30, 2019)
Carl Miller (to June 30, 2020)
Chuck Schultz (to June 30, 2021)
Rich Spinelli (Immediate Past President)



for more on ROPEX 2018, see page 6



President's Message

Fellow RPA members,

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at our first meeting September 13, and the start of RPA's 106th year.

At this first meeting, be prepared to share personal and stamp activities that you enjoyed this summer. Five of our members attended this year APS stamp show in Columbus and will discuss their participation.

In addition, we need your support in planning presentations for this coming year. Our vice president, John Flannery, is setting our meeting presentation schedule. Please take the initiative and volunteer to present a program. Club members will be glad to assist anyone who needs help in preparing a talk and/or presenting your material. See you on the 13th.

Larry Rausch, RPA President

Upcoming RPA Meetings

Thurs, Sept 13th "StampShow 2018" and
"What I did this Summer"

Thurs, Sept 27th TBA

Thurs, Oct 11th TBA

Thurs, Oct 25th TBA

Thurs. Nov. 8th TBA

Thurs. Dec 13th TBA

We do have some programs lined up, but have not set any dates for them. We will do that at the first meeting. But we also have open dates in the fall. Think about your philatelic interests and a presentation you might be able to give.

Meetings begin at 7 PM at the JCC in Brighton. The first half hour is for silent auction, show/trade among members, and general member interaction. The night's program begins at 7:30 PM.

Upcoming Stamp Shows/Bourses

Oct 5-6 STEPEX (Elmira Stamp Club)
Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-5 Dealers, Exhibits
American Legion, 45 South Olcott Rd, Big Flats, I-86
at exit 49, contact Al Parsons 607-732-0181

Oct 7 Brockport, New York (bourse)
(Western Monroe Philatelic Society), Brockport
Fireman's Exempt, 248 West Ave
Hours: 10-4 Contact: Dave Bombard (585-352-6955, E-mail - dbombard1@rochester.rr.com)

Dec 2 Rochester Stamps & Collectibles Show
North Greece Fireman's Field, 3666 Latta Road.
Hrs: 9:30-4:30. 8 dealers.
Contact: John Stoltz, 585-507-3533.
Website: <http://www.mccloudstampsandcoins.com/>
Email: jstoltz@rochester.rr.com

Visit our [online calendar](#) for even more area show news

RPA Member News



Ray Stone has been a member of the American Philatelic Association for 50 years. And last month Ray received a medallion in recognition of his half a century of membership and support to the national organization.

APS StampShow 2018

Columbus, Ohio

The American Philatelic Society held its 132nd annual convention in mid-August in Columbus, Ohio. This year the APS show was held jointly with the American Topical Association (ATA) creating a virtual smorgasbord of philately for collectors to enjoy. There were more than 100 dealers and more than 1000 exhibit frames. Over 100 national and international clubs/groups held meetings and seminars during the four day event. Columbus, Ohio is only about a six hour drive from Rochester and several RPA members made the trip. Here are a few thoughts from some of them.

John Lighthouse

I exhibited at, and attended, the APS Stamp Show 2018 in Columbus. The show was great and there were over 1,000 frames of exhibits which is what I enjoy most. Shopping for items to upgrade my U.S. revenue exhibit was rather disappointing, mostly because I need so few items which typically are not in the general marketplace. I did purchase a couple of items from Denny Peoples which will add to my exhibit. I enjoyed manning the American Revenue Association (ARA) table for a few hours which afforded the opportunity to meet like-minded collectors.

My 10-frame exhibit ("Using the Documents of Commerce to Fund the Civil War - 1862 – 1872") just missed gold due to a mistake I made when I changed my title page and synopsis at the last minute - NEVER DO A LAST MINUTE CHANGE. My judge was Robert Hohertz who is also the current ARA president. We sat and talked about his suggestions for my exhibit for more than an hour, during which I learned a lot about the finer points of exhibiting and my subject as a whole.

Ada Prill

From about 1990 until 2007 I attended the APS StampShow almost every year. I thoroughly enjoyed these shows and got to know a lot of my fellow show addicts. But starting in late 2007 I had a series of health issues – not all related – which made attending these shows impossible. Now my health has improved, and I could not wait to get to this year's StampShow in Columbus!

It was like a family reunion! I spent most of my time at the show renewing old acquaintanceships. I also spent some time looking at the amazing exhibits on display. The best exhibits from all of the national-level shows were there in the "Champion of Champions" (which Rochester started in 1968), as well as hundreds of other exhibits, highlighting almost any area of philately you could imagine.

I have a love/hate reaction to the dragon stamps that were issued there. Dragons are fun, and I had a great time coming up with cachets for first day covers (see page 4). But the stamp designs themselves are cluttered and confusing – easy to understand once I saw the huge blowups on display at the show, but not so easy to figure out from the stamps themselves. And dragons are really not an important part of American folklore – I prefer themes that have a stronger link to our own history or culture. But the stamps are fun! And so was the young APS staffer who went around the show in a dragon suit posing for pictures. She was called "Perf the Magic Dragon"! (see Ada with "Perf" on the next page). The First Day ceremony itself was horribly overcrowded. I claimed a seat a full hour ahead of the scheduled start, so I was okay, but the standing room area was packed, with some people not able to fit in even by standing.

All-in-all a great weekend: I'm starting to make plans for next August.

Luis Greiff

I enjoyed my vacation to the national stamp show in Columbus, Ohio. I had time to visit the U.S. Air-force museum, the Columbus zoo and the art museum. I am more of a lighthearted stamp collector than a serious collector. I started collecting worldwide stamps at around my thirteenth birthday. The collection started as a two volume Harris Standard and turned into a ten volume collection. I enjoy buying topical collections and adding them to my worldwide albums. My collection has many different themes. I found a Marilyn Monroe collection at the show to add to the list. There were plenty of choices with the many dealers and very nice exhibits. It was a good way to enjoy a summer vacation.

Larry Rausch

With the location so close to home, I was able to enjoy the full four days of the show. Most of this time, I was looking through Postal History Cover stock. I found 26 Wheel of Fortune covers and a number of fancy cancel covers all from the 1880-1890's. The first evening was spent at the Auction where I purchased two small Penny Red lots.

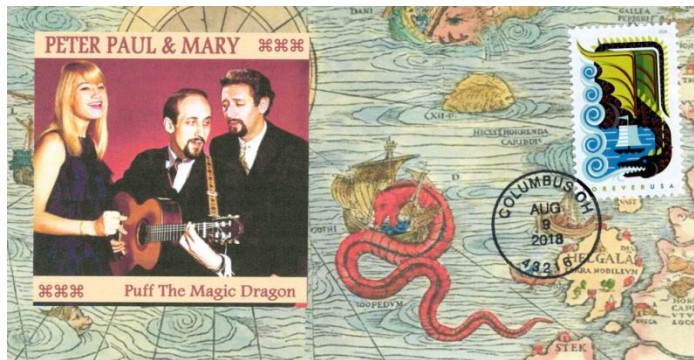
About those Dragon Stamps

Issued August 9, 2018 in Columbus, OH



The theme for the USPS at the StampShow was dragons: colorful dragons on new issue stamps to be exact. The four Forever dragon stamps were issued on the first day of this year's StampShow. As Ada noted, the dragons may be hard to see on the stamps, but you surely can't claim the stamp doesn't stand out on the envelope.

These colorful stamps will most certainly be the subject matter for a lot of colorful first day covers.



The moment when Peter realized that not all dragons are cute and cuddly.

Ada Prill was ready with her envelopes. This one of her creations features Peter Yarrow, who wrote "Puff the Magic Dragon". Ada notes that Peter (in the middle) seems to be staring intently at a place on the map where a dragon is devouring the crew of a sailing ship.

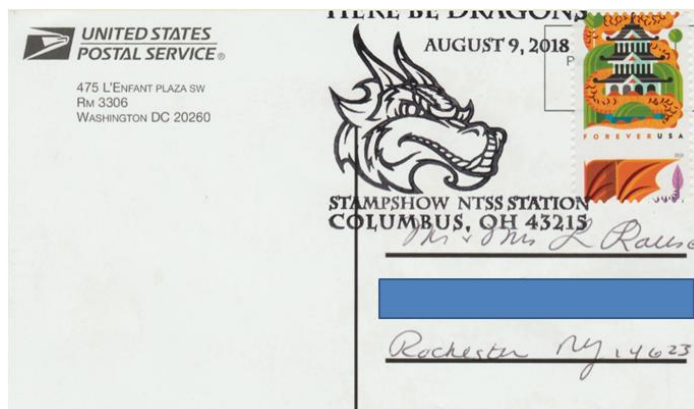


The USPS booth at the StampShow was a castle. Enter those doors to buy your dragon stamps. Now, that's one green dragon that is not hard to spot. Photo by A, Prill



And I guess you could not miss "Perf the Magic Dragon" at the show. Ada Prill found her and got her picture taken with Perf. .

But the USPS was not PERFect with its dragon stamp release. When RPA President Larry Rausch went to use some of his purchased dragon stamps he realized he had an error print as soon as he peeled off a stamp for a postcard.. The last row of stamps on the sheet lacked perforations! Apparently, because only the last row of the sheet lacks perfs, Scott catalogue editors, who have seen the sheet, say it is "unperforated" not "misperforated".



Here is the card Larry has with the unperforated dragon stamps. Larry will tell us "the rest of the story" at the RPA meeting this coming Thursday (Sept. 13th).



Norse-American Centennial

By Larry Rausch



The Norse-American Centennial was held in Minneapolis/Saint Paul, Minnesota in 1925. This event commemorated the 100th anniversary of the first Norwegian immigrant ship to America. The Norwegian ship "Restoration" departed Norway on July 4, 1825 and arrived on October 9, 1825. The United States Post office issued two commemorative stamps in conjunction with the Norse-American Centennial.

The red two cent (upper left) Scott 620, depicts what the "Restoration" is thought to look like. The blue five cent (upper right) Scott 621, shows an 11th century Viking ship as taken from a photo of a replica ship built in 1893 for the Chicago Columbian Exposition. Both stamps were designed by Aubrey Huston. This stamp series promoted a regional celebration of the importance of immigrants in America.

Four towns in Minnesota and two towns in Iowa were chosen as sites for the First Day of Issue. My Registered cover contains two examples of both the two and five cent stamps and was postmarked from Benson, Minnesota on May 18th, 1925 and signed by Post Master E.A. Hanson.

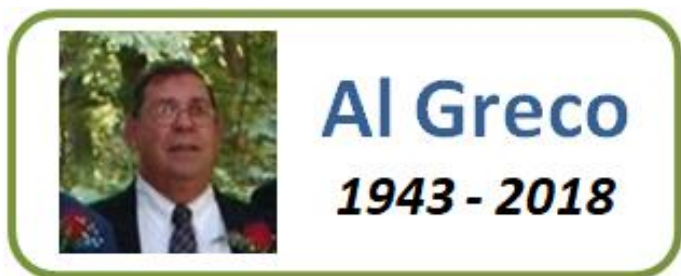
Rochester, New York Connection:

One of the first immigrants from Norway to America was Lars Larson who settled in Rochester, New York. Lars and his wife, Martha, had their first child on the voyage to America on this ship in 1825. Lars became a successful canal boat builder. Lars and Martha provided a transitional place to stay in Rochester for other Norwegian immigrants as described in a letter by Martha.

"Twelve Norwegians came here today, and are now setting at the table eating their supper. About two weeks ago there arrived from ninety to one hundred people. They stayed at our house about a week, and we provided meals for nearly all of them. Most have now gone to Illinois. There are still five families at our house, of the first emigrants who arrived."

The Norwegian Historical Association created a museum at the Luther College in Decorah, Iowa in 1926. One of the first gifts promised was the first house built by Norwegians in America, the one built in Rochester, New York by Lars Larsen.





The stamp collecting community of western New York lost another friend this summer. Alfred (Al) Greco passed away on August 28th in his home in Macedon, New York. Al is known throughout the philatelic community and has been a dealer at ROPEX for more than 20 years. His presence will be missed at next year's show..

Al is survived by his wife of 55 years, Joyce, and by three sons and eight grandchildren. Al served in the United States Navy and met Joyce while stationed in Trinidad. After his service, Al worked for IBM for 30 years, all the while building his stamp dealership that would provide him enjoyment in retirement. He was also a devoted gardening.

ROPEX 2018 Exhibit Winners and Awards

There were lots of fine exhibits and lots of gold medals were awarded by our panel of judges, Stephen Reinhard, Ronald Lester, and Jeffrey Shapiro. The Grand winner was Gregory Shoults for his 8 frame exhibit entitled "Washington & Franklin Coils: Third Bureau Perforated Issues 1908-1922". The single frame Grand award winner was Louis P. Pataki for "Along the Shantung Railway, China: German Postal Administration 1900-1914".

But there were two new exhibit awards at this year's ROPEX, each honoring an RPA member who passed away since the previous event that we would like to mention specially. The Frank Tritto Memorial Youth Grand Award was won by Rebecca Liebson for her single frame exhibit entitled "The 8.4 Cent Americana Piano Coil". The Rick Kase Most Popular Award, selected by popular vote of show attendees, was won by George DeKornfeld for his exhibit entitled "Making Whitetail Venison Sausage".

All other winning exhibits are listed on the [ROPEX 2018 Palmares](#) on the RPA webpage

Youth Competition: Design-A-Stamp



Addison Joan Forest, 4th grader from Rochester, points to her winning stamp design.



RPA proudly displayed all 35 Design-A-Stamp entries in the exhibit area at ROPEX.



Mary Iman (left) helped to carry on the tradition Frank Tritto initiated with the RPA Design-A-Stamp Competition. Here, Tom Fortunato photographs those present at the Design-A-Stamp ceremony at ROPEX..